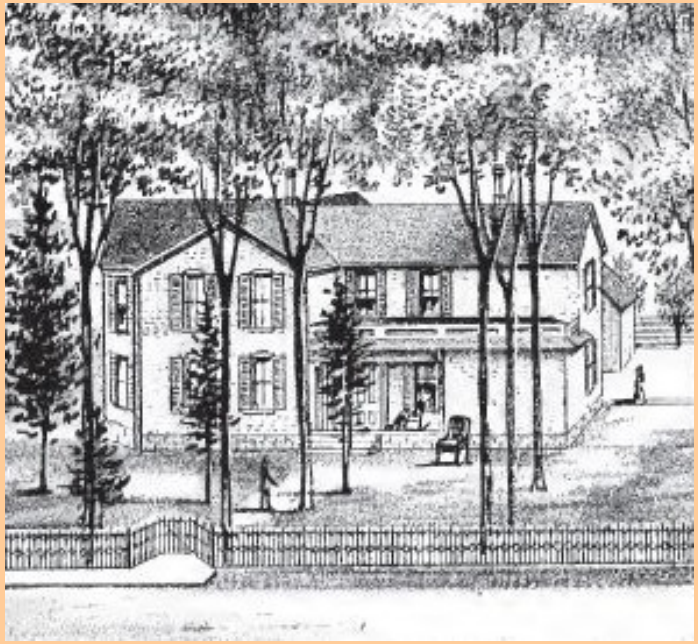
Farmland Ownership History

for

The Livingston County Historical Society



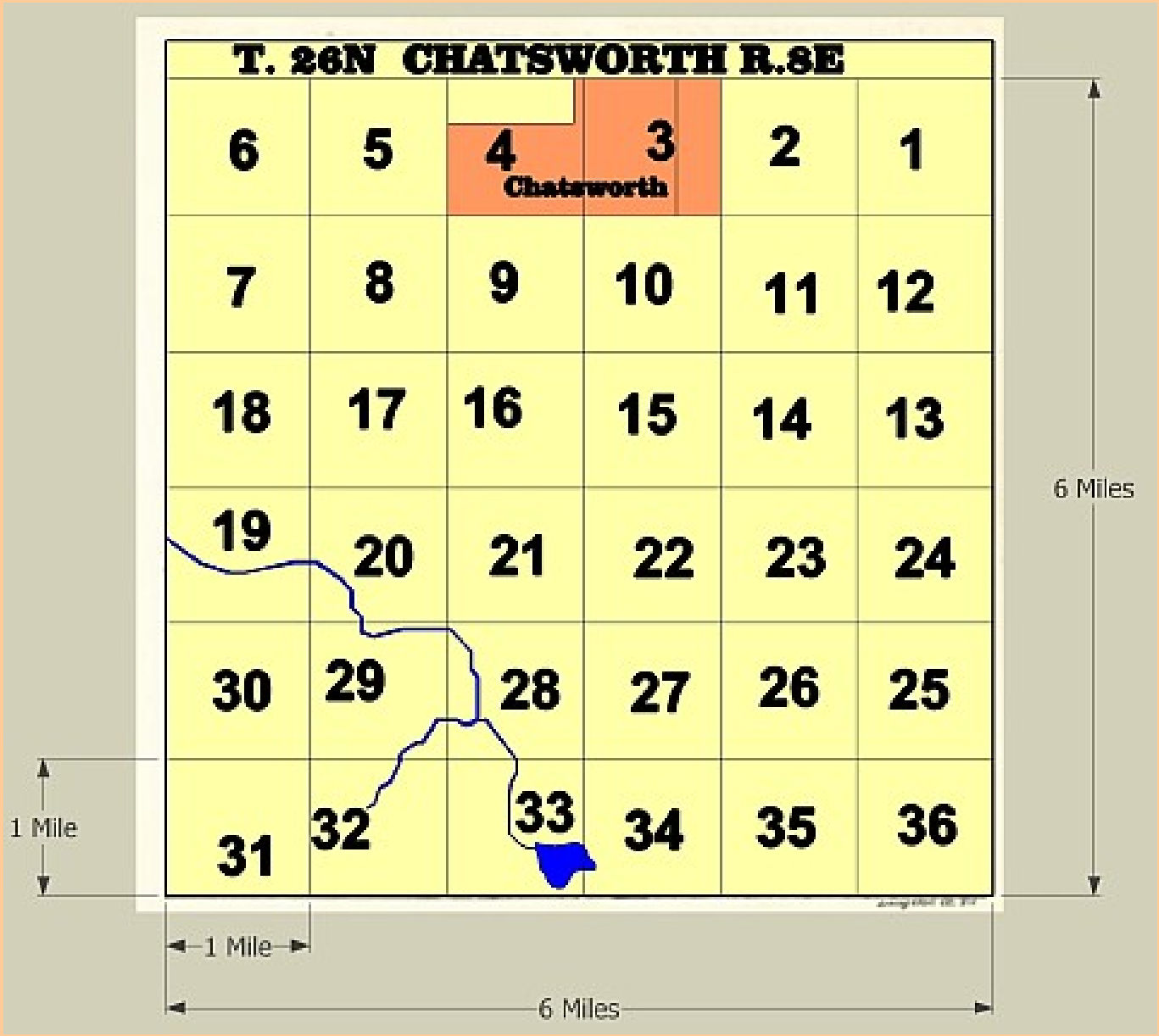
By: Dale C. Maley

March 2022

Farmland Searches

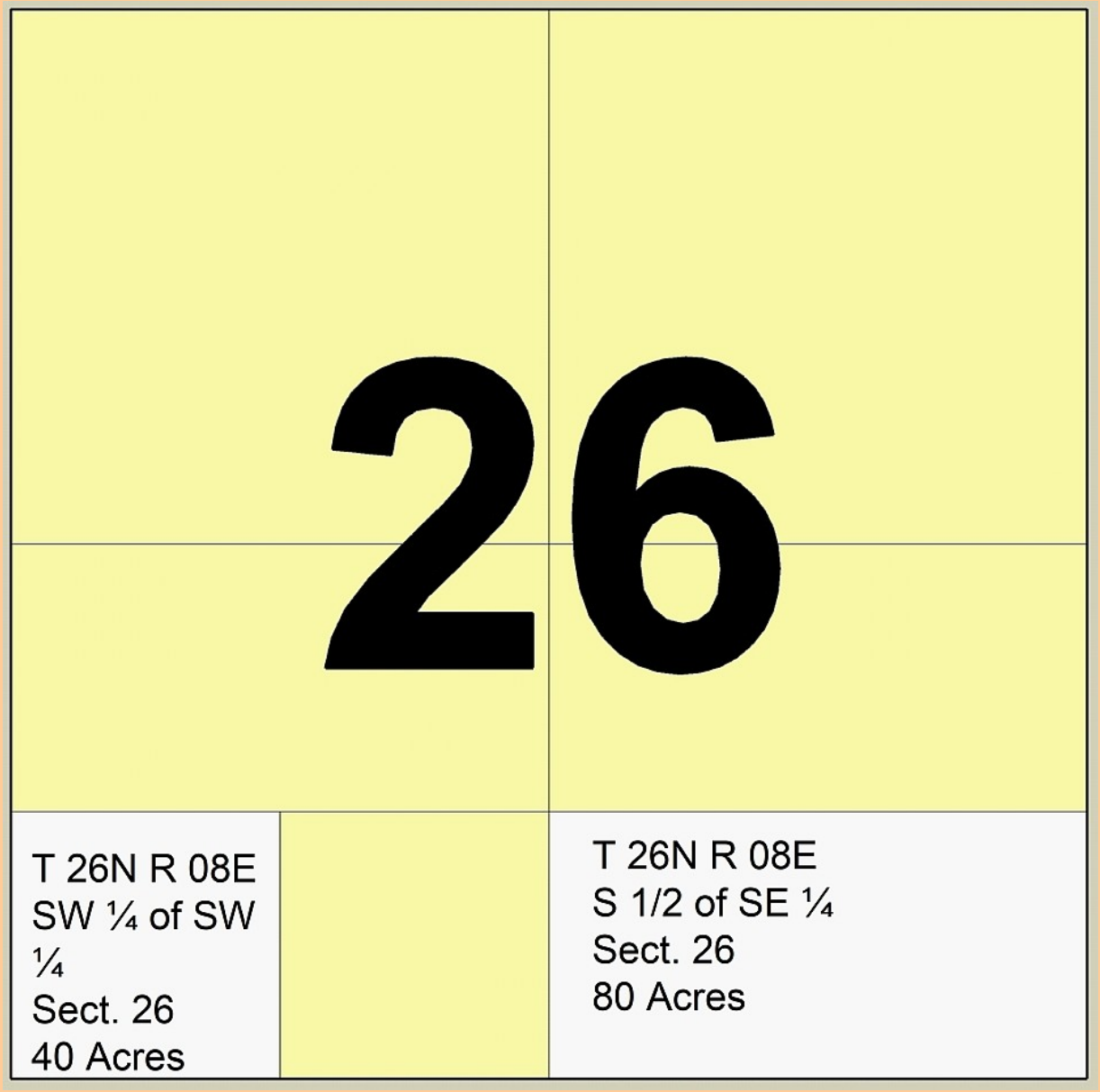
- All farmland in Livingston County originally purchased from U.S. Government
- No known way to search legal ownership records
- Can search by name for original land purchasers
- Can also search by land legal description
- Only way to search for changes in ownership is through 1893/1911 Atlas and Township Plat books

Farmland Searches



Township Grids

Farmland Searches



Legal

Description

Farmland Searches

- 1830 to 1850
  - -Very few pioneer settlers
  - -Last part of state to be settled
  - -Swampland, no railroads

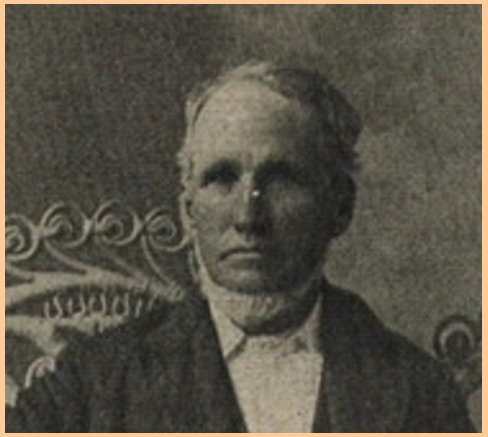
- 1850 Congressional Script Act
  - -Military veterans of past wars given free land
  - -Amount of land depended on time served
  - -Caused stampede of new settles in 1850s
  - -All over by 1860

Farmland Searches

- Price to buy farmland
  - -1820-1850 was $1.25/acre
  - -1850-1860 was $2.50/acre
    - $2.50 => $88/acre Today

- 1850 Congressional Script Act
  - -Most veterans did not want to move to swampland
  - -Veterans sold their land rights for ~10 cents on the dollar
  - -Found 1 source that said 1850 market price was 30 cents/acre……0.30/2.50 = 12 cents on dollar

Farmland Searches



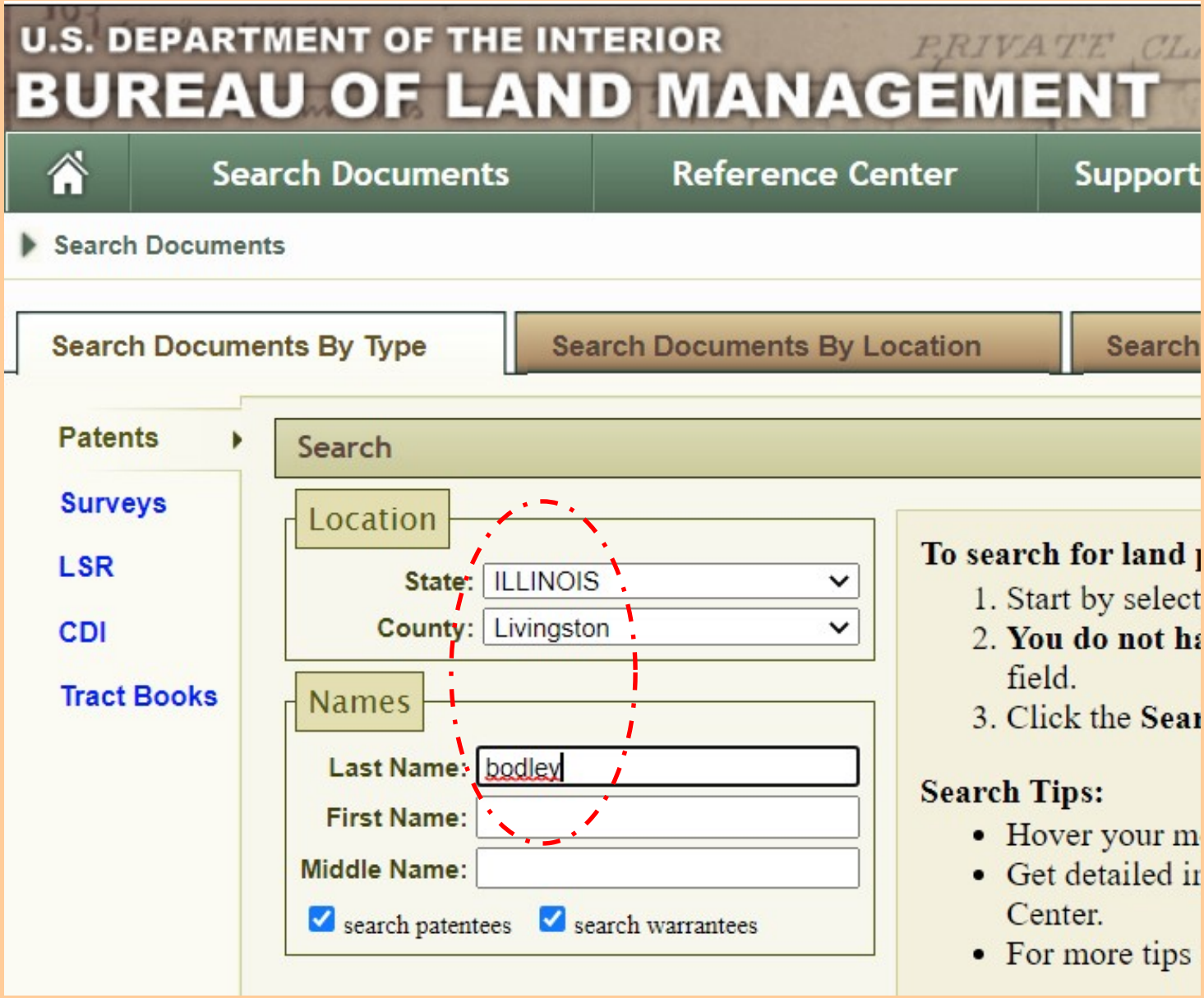
- Example search by name
  - -John Bodley (1829-1906)
  - -Great-Great Grandfather of Dale C. Maley

- Federal Database from Bureau of Land Management

https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx

Or: https://tinyurl.com/ydnhkz35

Farmland Searches



Farmland Searches

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	MW-0648-325	P BODLEY, JOHN, W JOHNSON, ARTHUR	9/1/1853	20364	IL	3rd PM	027N - 006E	S½NW¼	20	Livingston
	MW-0648-326	P BODLEY, JOHN, W HUFFMAN, JOHN	9/1/1853	58838	IL	3rd PM	027N - 006E	NW¼SW¼	20	Livingston
	MW-0784-451	P BODLEY, JOHN, W SHEWMAKER, JOSEPH A	7/1/1854	25805	IL	3rd PM	027N - 006E	SW¼SW¼	20	Livingston
	MW-0784-452	P BODLEY, JOHN, W RUNYAN, WILLIAM	7/1/1854	30360	IL	3rd PM	027N - 006E	NE¼SW¼	20	Livingston
	IL3800 .390	P BODLEY, JOHN	10/15/1855	14267	IL	3rd PM	027N - 006E	SE¼NE¼	19	Livingston
							027N - 006E	NE¼NE¼	19	Livingston
							027N - 006E	NW¼NW¼	20	Livingston

- Top 4 transactions used military patents
  -likely was $0.30 per acre
- 5th transaction was for cash
  -likely was $2.50 per acre

Farmland Searches

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- Military veterans were:
  - -Arthur Johnson
  - -John Huffman
  - -Joseph A. Shewmaker
  - -William Runyon

1st transaction

Farmland Searches

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT General Land

Search Documents | Reference Center | Support

Search Documents ▸ Results List ▸ Patent Details

Accession Nr: MW-0648-325 **Document Type:** Military Warrant **State:** Illinois **Issue Date:** 9/1/1853 **Cancelled:** No

Patent Details | Patent Image | Related Documents

Names On Document

P BODLEY, JOHN,
W JOHNSON, ARTHUR

Military Rank:	---

Miscellaneous Information

Land Office:	Danville
US Reservations:	No
Mineral Reservations:	No
Tribe:	---
Militia:	Captain Thomas Company Georgia Militia
State In Favor Of:	---
Authority:	September 28, 1850: ScripWarrant Act of 1850 (9 Stat. 520)
General Remarks:	---

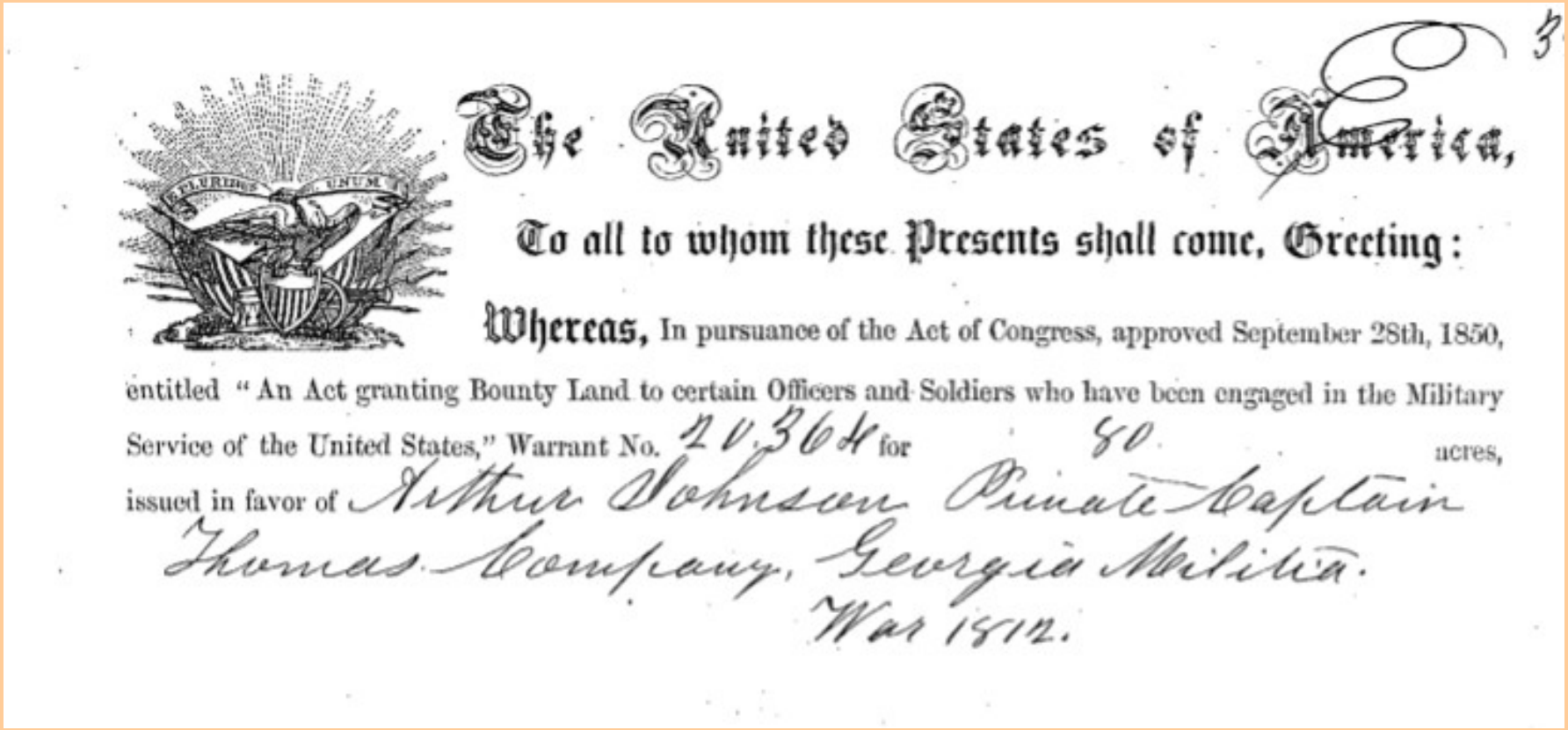
Document Numbers

Document Nr:	20364
Misc. Doc. Nr:	---
BLM Serial Nr:	---
Indian Allot. Nr:	---
Coal Entry. Nr:	---

Survey Information

Total Acres:	80.00
Survey Date:	---
Geographic Name:	---
Metes/Bounds:	No

Farmland Searches



The United States of America,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved September 28th, 1850, entitled "An Act granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States," Warrant No. 20,364 for 80 acres, issued in favor of Arthur Johnson Private Captain Thomas Company, Georgia Militia. War 1812.

80 Acres, Arthur Johnson Private Captain
Thomas Company, Georgia Militia, War of 1812

Farmland Searches

has been returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE, with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the South half of the North West quarter, of section twenty in Township twenty seven North, of range six East, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Danville Illinois, containing eighty acres.

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Lands returned to the *GENERAL LAND OFFICE* by the SURVEYOR GENERAL: which has been assigned to John Bodley,

Now Know Ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said John Bodley,

Farmland Searches

heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Franklin Pierce

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three and of the Independence of the United States the seventy-eighth

BY THE PRESIDENT: Franklin Pierce

By Jno. H. Wheeler Asst Sec'y.

J. S. Granger *Recorder of the General Land Office.*

Franklin Pearce
1853-1857

Farmland Searches

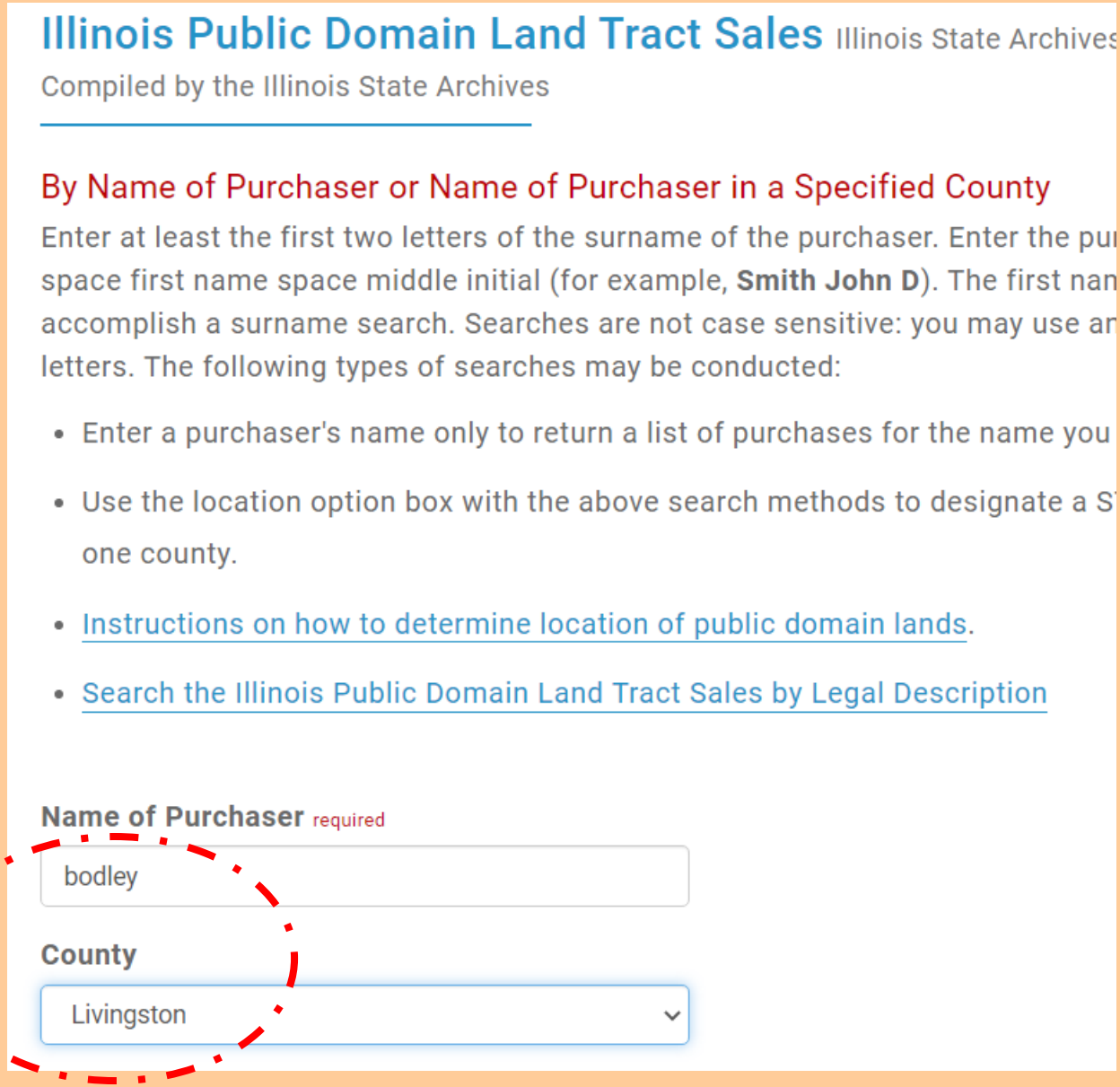
- Federal database search now complete

- Must also search the State of Illinois Database

https://apps.ilsos.gov/isa/pubdomsrch.jsp

Or: https://tinyurl.com/2zbsyfez

Farmland Searches


Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Illinois State Archives
Compiled by the Illinois State Archives
By Name of Purchaser or Name of Purchaser in a Specified County
Enter at least the first two letters of the surname of the purchaser. Enter the pu
space first name space middle initial (for example, Smith John D). The first nan
accomplish a surname search. Searches are not case sensitive: you may use ar
letters. The following types of searches may be conducted:
Enter a purchaser's name only to return a list of purchases for the name you
Use the location option box with the above search methods to designate a S
one county.
Instructions on how to determine location of public domain lands.
Search the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales by Legal Description
Name of Purchaser required
bodley
County
Livingston

Farmland Searches

Name of Purchaser	Legal Description	Section	Township	Range	Meridian	Date Purchased	County
BODLEY JOHN	S2SW	09	27N	06E	3	10/06/1854	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	NWNW	20	27N	06E	3	08/23/1853	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	NENE	19	27N	06E	3	08/23/1853	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	SENE	19	27N	06E	3	08/23/1853	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	NWSW	20	27N	06E	3	01/10/1853	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	S2NW	20	27N	06E	3	01/10/1853	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	NESW	20	27N	06E	3	01/21/1853	LIVINGSTON
BODLEY JOHN	SWSW	20	27N	06E	3	01/21/1853	LIVINGSTON

Now compare federal and state database results

Farmland Searches

- Search by Name on Federal and State databases now complete

- How do you search by land legal description?

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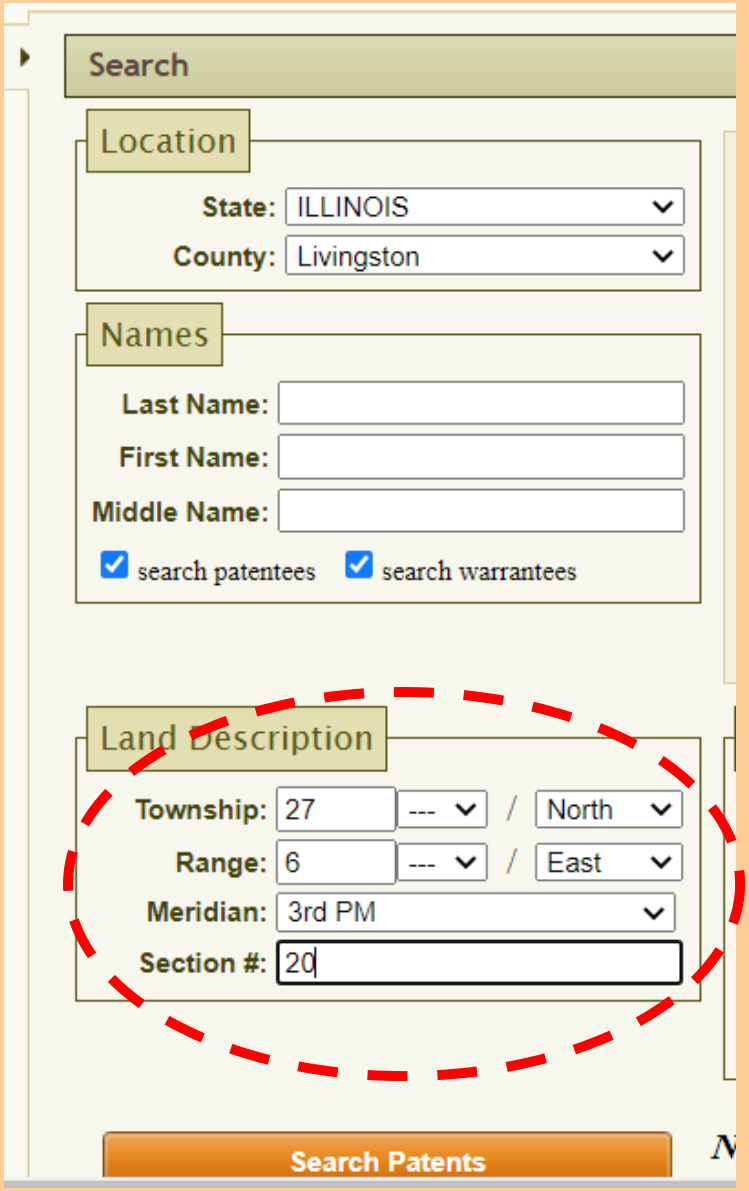
27N Range 6E, section 20, 3rd PM

Farmland Searches



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							027N - 006E	NW¼NW¼	20	Livingston

Same results as search by Name

Farmland Searches

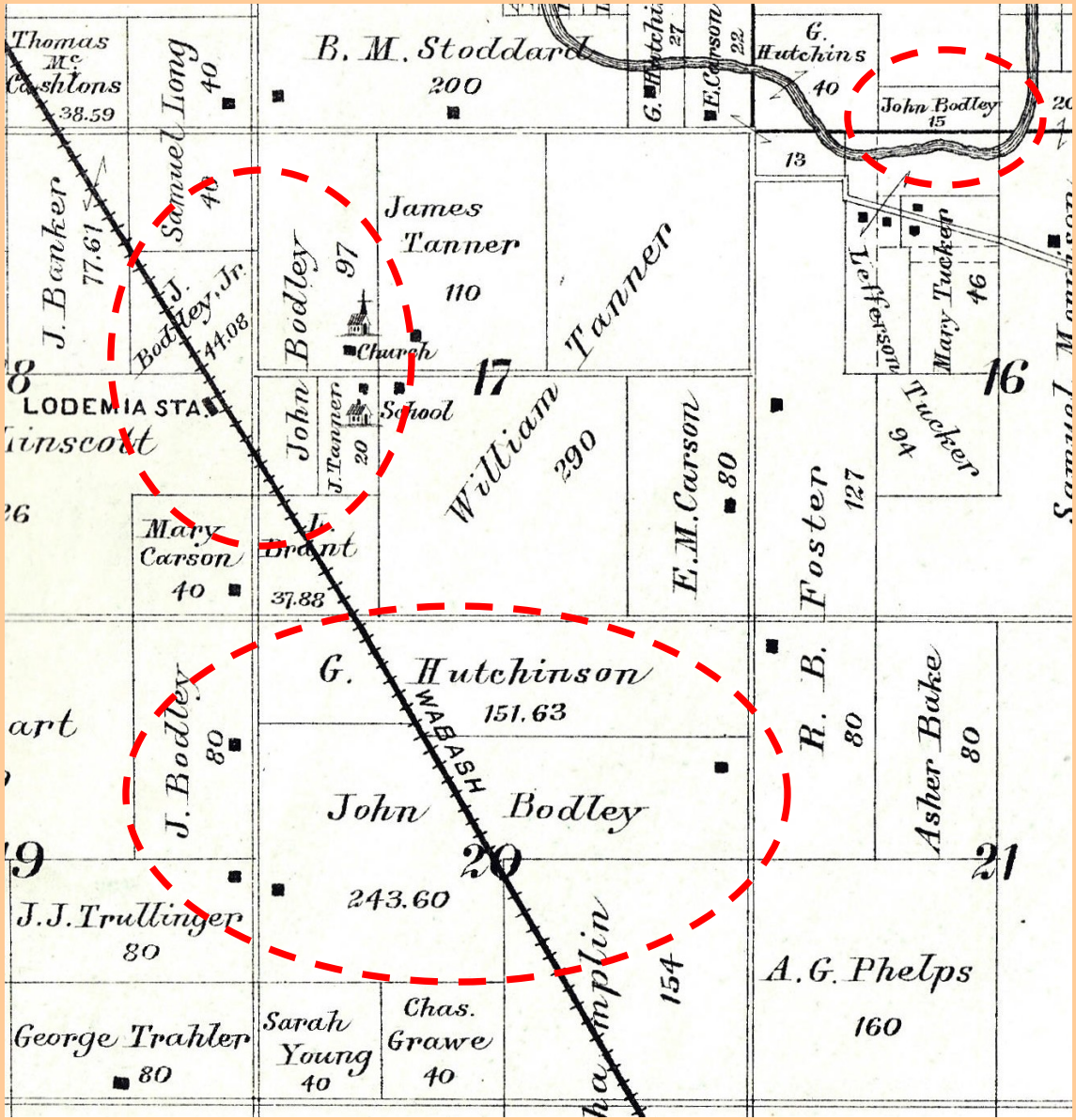
- Initial Land Purchases Completed

- Use Atlas's & Township Plat Books to see how ownership changed over time

- 1893/1911 Livingston County Atlas
  [supposed to be 1870 Atlas, but nobody can find it]

- Township Plat Maps

Farmland Searches



1893 Atlas
Avoca Twp.

Farmland Searches

- Florida Wars
  - -Better known as Seminole Wars
  - -40 year war between Native Americans and U.S. Government

- Some Creek Indians fought on the side of the U.S.
  - -Therefore received military veteran land patents under 1850 Script Act
  - -Lot of Fairbury in Indian Grove Township was originally owned by about 10 Creek veterans!

Farmland Searches

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	MW-0754-010	P MAGIE, DAVID, W COOK, JOHN	3/1/1854	23391	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	SW¼	14	Livingston
	MW-0754-025	P MAGIE, DAVID, W BRADFORD, RICHARD	3/1/1854	19090	IL	3rd PM	026N - 007E	W½SE¼	6	Livingston
	MW-0754-026	P MAGIE, DAVID, W SIMS, GARNET	3/1/1854	19579	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	E½SE¼	15	Livingston
	MW-0757-417	P MAGIE, DAVID, W DAVIS, ISAAC H	3/1/1854	4012	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	W½SW¼	9	Livingston
	MW-0777-252	P MAGIE, DAVID, P MOLLEAH, W HARJO, OK-FUSKEE	7/1/1854	15228	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	SE¼	14	Livingston
	MW-0777-253	P MAGIE, DAVID, W OKFUSKEE-TAHOLA	7/1/1854	15003	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	NW¼	4	Livingston
	MW-0777-254	P MAGIE, DAVID, W HARJO, NE-HAH	7/1/1854	15090	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	SW¼	3	Livingston
	MW-0777-255	P MAGIE, DAVID, W YAHOLA, OSI	7/1/1854	15001	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	NW¼	3	Livingston
	MW-0777-256	P MAGIE, DAVID, W FIXICO, YAH-KIN-HAR	7/1/1854	15002	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	SW¼	4	Livingston
	MW-0777-257	P MAGIE, DAVID, W CHO-ILLE HARJO	7/1/1854	15180	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	SE¼	4	Livingston
	MW-0777-258	P MAGIE, DAVID, W YAHOLA, OCTIAH-CHE	7/1/1854	15185	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	NE¼	4	Livingston
	MW-0777-259	P MAGIE, DAVID, W HARJO, TALMARJO	7/1/1854	15122	IL	3rd PM	026N - 007E	SW¼	7	Livingston
	MW-0777-260	P MAGIE, DAVID, W TOKE-CHEE-YAH, W NE-HAH-LOCCO-CHOPCO	7/1/1854	15385	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	NW¼	9	Livingston
	MW-0777-349	P MAGIE, DAVID, W ITS-HARSH-HARJO	7/1/1854	15102	IL	3rd PM	026N - 007E	NW¼	7	Livingston
	MW-0784-301	P MAGIE, DAVID, W HARJO, YAH-TOW-WA	7/1/1854	15100	IL	3rd PM	026N - 006E	NE¼	14	Livingston

● Veteran of Florida War (Seminole War)

Creek Veterans Awarded Land in Fairbury Area

Farmland Searches

- Homestead Act of 1862
  - -President Lincoln signed the Act
  - -Granted 160 acres to anyone for small filing fee
  - -Was 5 year occupancy requirement
  - -Civil War veterans could subtract time served from 5 year requirement
  - -Act was repealed in 1976

John Kring
1863
Fairbury

Farmland Searches

Questions ??